Message Text

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BRIDGETOWN FOR STUMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, TD

SUBJECT: DENVER RESEARCH INSTITUTE: AID CONTRACT TA-C-1337

REF: STATE 176507

CONVERSATION BETWEEN B. LINCOLN AND ABELARDO VALDEZ, AUGUST 11.

- 1. VISIT OF DR. RONALD BLACK TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS SECOND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF DRI, AND WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE A THIRD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DRI IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN FUNDING A RESEARCH PROJECT AT THE CARIBBEAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARIRI) WHICH HAS EXCELLENT TECHNICAL CAPABILITY.
- 2. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ENTHUSIASM MAY LEAD TO EXPECTATIONS WHICH CANNOT BE FULFILLED. WE UNDENITAND THAT AN AID/W TEAM VISITED CARIRI IN LATE 1974 AND FOUND THAT SINCE IT OPERATES FOR THE PRIMARY BENEFIT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IT WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE IN AID CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMS. WHILE AID OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED CARIRI SINCE THEN, THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN AID'S POLICY IN THIS REGARD.

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PAGE 02 PORT O 02418 191233Z

3. AT EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION, DONALD EVANS OF DRI ON EARLIER VISIT EXPLORED WITH CARIRI POSSIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING DRI-FINANCED PROJECT FOR BENEFIT OF LDCS IN CARIBBEAN. CARIRI IS APPARENTLY INTERESTED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT HAS DIFFICULTY IN DESIGNING A PROJECT OF THIS KIND ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.

- 4. BEFORE DRI PROCEEDS FURTHER WITH ITS EFFORTS TO GENERATE AN APPLICATION FOR PROJECT ASSISTANCE FROM CARIRI, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AID DELINEATE JUST WHAT DRI CAN AND CANNOT FINANCE HERE. EVANS AND BLACK HAVE INDICATED THAT CARIRI APPEARS ON AN AID LIST OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW ON WHAT BASIS THIS LIST WAS FRAWN UP.
- 5. BLACK IS ALSO EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY CARIRI IN WORKSHGP TO BE HELD AT ICAITI IN GUATEMALA CITY. IF IT IS TRUE, AS DRI SEEMS TO THINK, THAT CARIRI'S DESIGN OF PROJECT PROPOSALS IS CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THE STANDARD FOR SUCH INSTITUTIONS, CARIRI SHOULD MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO SUCH A WORKSHOP, AND WE WOULD FAVOR ITS PARTICIPATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
- $6.\ I$ WOULD APPRECIATE AID/W'S EARLY COMMENTS ON THESE QUESTIONS.

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